

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 - 12. (Cancelled).

13. (New) A method of manufacturing a vehicle frame assembly comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first vehicle frame member by (1) positioning a hollow member within a die cavity defined by a die, (2) filling the hollow member with a fluid, and (3) creating a single shock wave within the fluid to rapidly expand the hollow member into conformance with the die cavity;

(b) providing a plurality of second vehicle frame members; and

(c) securing the first vehicle frame member and the plurality of second vehicle frame members together to form a vehicle frame assembly.

14. (New) The method defined in Claim 13 wherein said step (a)(3) is performed by discharging an electric arc within the fluid.

15. (New) The method defined in Claim 13 wherein said step (a)(3) is performed by rapidly advancing a piston within a fluid cylinder in communication with the fluid.

16. (New) The method defined in Claim 15 wherein said step of rapidly advancing the piston is performed by energizing an electromagnet.

17. (New) The method defined in Claim 13 including the further step of feeding an end of the hollow member into the die cavity during the rapid expansion of the hollow member.